THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) the Working Group, which has been set up by the Government to go into the codification of the concept of minimum wages, listing out guidelines based on critical evaluation of various parameters and also study the problems in the implementation of minimum wages, paid a visit to Orissa besides Chhattisgarh during 18-21 June, 2003 to examine the problems in implementation of minimum wage at the ground level. The Report of the Working Group has not yet been submitted.

Impact of disinvestment and closure of small scale units on employment

2030. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of disinvestment and closure of small scale units on employment; and

(b) the action taken to create more jobs to safeguard the interests of the work force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Privatization is expected to improve the efficiency of operations in the disinvested PSU's and thereby contribute to economic growth and it will have a beneficial impact in the long run on employment.

As regards Small Scale Industry, the employment has gone up by about 3.9% in 2002-03 over 2001-02.

(b) Creation of 50 million employment opportunities at the rate of 10 million per year are being targeted during the Tenth Plan period.

Labour laws

2031. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether obsolete labour laws have largely affected the growth in various sectors;

(b) if so, whether Government have been actively considering to eliminate the said laws;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some new international labour Laws are likely to be introduced for proper growth, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy. Taking into consideration the requirement of productivity, growth, competitiveness, employment generation and to update the provisions of labour laws, a need has been felt to make amendments/repealment of certain labour legislations. Accordingly, the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1970 and the Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies) Act, 1955 have been repealed and also amendments in the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and Cine Workers Welfare Act, 1981 have been carried out. Meanwhile the Second National Commission on Labour set up by the Government, made wide-ranging recommendations, in its Report, on various facets of labour including review of laws. The Report of the commission has been receiving utmost attention and discussions held at various fora amongst social partners to evolve a workable consensus and to crystallise the views of the Government for implementation of the recommendations of the Commission.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal to introduce International Labour Laws in the country. However, while reviewing/updating the labour laws, the international conventions concerning welfare of the workers and current needs for proper economic growth are taken care of.

EPFO's investment in IFCI

2032. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees Provident Fund